lost; the elect and the mass. . . . I cannot understand how any realization of the democratic ideal as a vital moral and spiritual ideal in human affairs is possible without surrender of the conception of the basic division to which supernatural Christianity is committed." (*A Common Faith*, Yale University Press).

An article showing the carefully planned humanistic replacement of biblical moral values would be valuable.

JOHN R. MUEHLBERG
Elkhart, Ind.

Movies/Weaker Brothers

Re September's Via Media:

Mr. White's movie infatuation may not have harmed his moral life, but did he ever read Paul's statements in Rom. 14:13-21 and I Cor. 8:4-13? We are to be guided in what we do for the sake of the *other man's* conscience.

REV. GEORGE H. CLEMENT
Willowdale, Ontario

To say that movies have degenerated in the past few years is to put it mildly. I can no longer trust even the so-called "purer" movies because even they use the precious name of Jesus and God's name in so light, vain and mocking a manner that by choice I cannot deem this proper entertainment.

I do not mean to issue a blanket disapproval of all and everything that appears on film. But I am sure that much discernment is needed today, and as a guide for Christians I can't see that Via Media is helpful (such as when a movie like *Serpico* is advocated to all readers at large—our local paper described it as portraying "blue" language). On the contrary, the column is probably harmful *for some people*. Mr. White might read Matt. 18:6.

LEE HAPWOOD
Springfield, Ill.

Copyrights Unscriptural?

Re Richard J. Stanislaw's column in the September issue entitled "Is This Singing to God's Glory?":

John 2:16: ". . . Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise."

Matt. 10:8b: "Freely you have received, freely give."

Should there be laws against God's people receiving the blessings and gifts He has seen fit to give His people through those He chooses to use to convey His messages of love???

Do these songs, messages, etc. really "belong" to these individuals?

TALLY MILLER
Sulphur, La.

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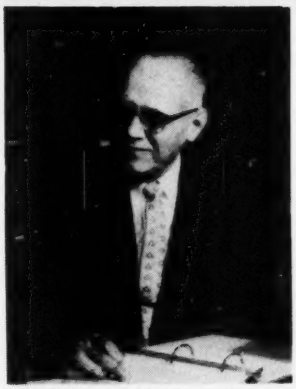

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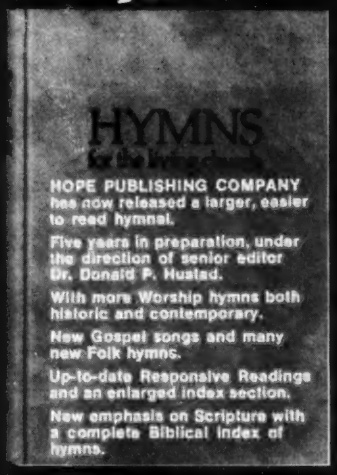

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GIVING IN THE U.S.

One of the great traditions in the United States is the spirit of giving to help others.

For the Christian, there is a biblical imperative to give and to be our brother's keeper. So, it is not surprising that the greatest percentage of philanthropy goes to religious causes.

According to the 1974 report on giving by the American Association of Fund Raising Council, Americans gave 24.5 million dollars for charitable causes. Religious causes received 41.1% of those gifts. Hospitals received 16.2%, education 16%, social welfare 7.2%, public and culture 7.3% and other miscellaneous causes 12.2%.

Even though religious causes receive the largest share of gifts, that share has been decreasing in recent years—down 2% from last year and 8.3% down since 1964. This trend is directly related to declining church memberships, especially in main line denominations over the past decade.

The average individual gave $110.29 to his church and other religious causes. In churches where tithing is stressed, the average gift is much higher, with the Seventh Day Adventists showing an average annual church contribution of $417.20 per member.

Following is a breakdown of source of gifts and the recipients:

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Public & Culture	1.80 (7.3%)
OTHER	2.98 (12.2%)

There are more than 3,000 evangelical Christian organizations in the U.S. who depend on the gifts of Christian friends. You should include some in your giving plans. Perhaps you can include one or two in your will, or, you may want to invest in annuities or trusts. Some people give stocks, property, life insurance or make low interest loans which are very desirable in these inflationary times.

However you do it, you should consider the Lord's work this Christmas season. So, when you make that gift list, include some worthy Christian ministry.

Most Christian organizations, including ETERNITY, provide free brochures on giving. Many advertise in ETERNITY. Why not write them.

THE LAST WORD

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Last Word

. . . good thought to end on

Luke 2, updated by Wendy LaBarr

'Tis the Season to Be Anxious

And it came to pass in the twelfth month of the year that there went out a news release from the President that all the nation should be concerned.

And all went to be concerned, everyone to his own interests and problems.

And fathers also went out of their temperament of normal times into a state of anxiety, which displayed itself in ulcers, heart attacks and broken marriages.

To be anxious with Mary, Betty, John, or whichever ones were great with pain.

And they brought forth their troubles and soothed them by pills and laid them aside, because there was not time for them in this season.

And they all thought of the decreasing energy, falling stock market, rising prices, generation gap, job insecurity, and were anxious, and concerned, and afraid.

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and still they were afraid, for they were so busy buying presents, picking up kids, taking exams, giving parties, planning programs, telling Santa Claus stories, singing songs, watching football, baking cookies, budgeting money and being concerned, that they did not notice the glory of the Lord.

And the angel said, "Fear not; for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." And the angel said that thousands of years ago at a seemingly insignificant time and place a babe was born to be the Savior of the world. And because of this most magnificent of all gifts, all men might be saved.

And suddenly there was with the angel a silent minority who had taken a minute to notice the Lord, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven the minority said to one another, "Let us now go even unto great lengths to forget our concerns for a bit, and glorify the Lord more often."

And when they did this they found their concerns to be greatly diminished and their anxiety replaced by gladness.

And they began to make known the saying which was told them. And all they that heard wondered.

Miss LaBarr is a sophomore at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.